

NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Jury Returns Indictments Charging Two Men with Child Sex Offenses in Unrelated Cases

Peoria, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that the grand jury in Peoria, Illinois today returned separate indictments charging two men with possession of child pornography.

One indictment charges **Jimmy C. Root**, 27, formerly of Bradford, Illinois, with one count of possession of child pornography from February 28, 2006 through May 12, 2006. Root is currently in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections in another case. If convicted, Root faces a mandatory term of 10 to 20 years in prison and lifetime supervised release. The charge against Root is the result of investigation by the Central Illinois Cybercrime Unit and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory R. Walters.

A second indictment charges **Danny W. Orr**, age 57, of Port Huron, Michigan, with attempting to entice a minor to travel across state lines to engage in sexual conduct and with using interstate communications to attempt to entice a minor to engage in sexual conduct. The two-count indictment alleges Orr used the Internet to attempt to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity from about July 19, 2006 to September 11, 2006, and that on September 5, 2006, Orr attempted to persuade a minor to travel out of state to engage in sexual activity. The charges against Orr are the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Decatur Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy A. Bass.

If convicted, using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in sexual conduct, is punishable by a mandatory minimum penalty of five years to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. For attempting to entice a minor to travel across state lines to engage in sexual conduct, the penalty is up to 20 years in prison.

Both cases are being brought under the nationwide Project Safe Childhood initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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